

-51-

**METHOD FOR INHIBITING ARTICULAR CARTILAGE MATRIX  
CALCIFICATION**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Methods of inhibiting calcification in meniscal and articular cartilage of the joints are disclosed. The methods include blocking the activation and activity of transglutaminases tTGase and Factor XIIIa. Furthermore, disclosed are methods for identifying agents that affect TGase activity and/or matrix calcification.